

I am writing in opposition to the broadcast flag mandate. I believe that this mandate has the potential to do great harm to the public's ability to utilize the public portions of the airwaves. As an amateur radio operator I would like to be able to operate fast scan video modes. As a free software user and developer I would like to use my unmodified computer to receive digital television broadcasts, and modify the receivers code. As an electrical engineer working with advanced signal processing, especially geolocation or complex radio waveforms I would really like to not have our projects run into difficulties finding general purpose receivers, which would have to be banned to prevent me from writing code that used them as television receivers.

As an example please look at the GNU Radio (an open source software radio project). One of the goals of this public project is to allow the reception of digital broadcast radio and television using standard high speed analog to digital conversion boards and lots of high speed software. The software is designed to allow a wide variety of modular signal processing algorithms, with everything being transparent and modifiable by the users. This type of code is extremely useful for training future engineers, and provides a base capability usable by the public for future advancements.

Prohibiting modifiable and open receivers of public broadcast spectrum is a great harm to the public interest and should not be done.

Thanks you for your time,
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